

HABS NO. VA-655

Row Houses
Pig Alley Block Study
705-713 Plum Street
Petersburg
Virginia

HABS
VA
27-PET,
23E -

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

PIG ALLEY BLOCK STUDY:

703-713 PLUM STREET

HABS
VA
27-PET,
23E-

Location: 703-713 Plum Street, Petersburg, Virginia

Present Owner: Horace L. & Louise K. Henshaw, Rt. 1, P. O. Box 50,
Church Road, Virginia

Present Occupant: Yvonne Anthony & Family (705)
Vacant (707)
William Green & Family (709, 711)
Susan Campbell & Family (713)

Present Use: Six Private Residences (Presently arranged for five)

Statement of Significance: This building, probably constructed c. 1835, is made up of a row of six workers' tenements. The complex was built for workers in the mahy flour and cotton mills which were located 500 feet north along the Appomattox River. This building is interesting since its form is a derivation of similar forms which were used in Colonial houses in Tidewater Virginia.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1835.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: A chain of title for the building follows. Deed and Will Books are in the Clerk's Office of Hustings Court at Petersburg.

1841 Deed June 2, 1841 recorded in
Book 12 page 190
Robert M. Haxall, (ex.)
Richard Barton (ex.)
Haxall William
to
Benjamin Jones

1857 Deed April 4, 1857 recorded in
Book 23 page 580
Robert Y. Jones (ex.)
Benjamin Jones
to
Robert Cousins

1863 Deed April 15, 1863 recorded in
Book 27 page 429

Robert Cousins
to
Thomas D. Stewart

1878 Deed October 19, 1878 recorded in
Book 40 page 78
T. D. Stewart
to
R. B. Davis (tr.)

1880 Deed March 15, 1880 recorded in
Book 40 page 700
Richard B. Davis (tr.)
W. C. Lumsden

1904 Deed September 30, 1904 recorded in
Book 69 page 213
Hugh R. Smith (ex.)
J. Thomas West (ex.)
W. C. Lumsden
to
K. W. Harris

1905 ~~Deed~~ March 3, 1905 recorded in
Book 69 page 450
K. W. Harris
to
H. L. Percivall

1908 Deed January 8, 1908 recorded in
Book 72 page 399
H. L. Percivall
to
William E. Armstrong

1912 Deed April 10, 1912 recorded in
Book 80 page 353
William E. Armstrong
Mary L. Armstrong
to
George S. Bernard

1912 Deed August 27, 1912 recorded in
Book 81 page 168
George S. Bernard
Mary S. Bernard
to
Sallie R. Whitehead

1913 Deed March 27, 1913 recorded in
Will Book 10 page 465
Sallie R. Whitehead

to
May C. Whitehead

1917 Deed August 27, 1917 recorded in
Book 90 page 445
Mae C. Whitehead
to
J. W. Sutherland
C. W. Sutherland
J. R. Sutherland

1927 Deed December 12, 1927 recorded in
Book 114 page 579
J. W. Sutherland
(one-third share of
property)
to
C. W. Sutherland
J. R. Sutherland

1929 Deed January 16, 1929 recorded in
Book 117 page 317
C. W. Sutherland
Daisy K. Sutherland
J. R. Sutherland
Vivian B. Sutherland
to
W. D. Orr

1929 Deed January 16, 1929 recorded in
Book 117 page 319
W. D. Orr
Addie F. Orr
to
M. F. Partridge (tr.)

1930 Deed July 30, 1930 recorded in
Book 121 page 133
M. F. Partridge (tr.)
M. D. Magee

1937 Deed March 2, 1937 recorded in
Book 134 page 175
M. D. Magee
Mabel M. Magee
to
S. W. Hood

1937 Deed April 15, 1937 recorded in
Book 134 page 175
S. W. Hood
Bessie S. Hood

to
John G. Weeks
G. E. Matthews

1939 Deed November 1, 1939 recorded in
Book 139 page 242
John G. Weeks
Mary H. Weeks
G. E. Matthews
Mary B. Matthews
to
Fred A. Mountford

1941 Deed October 29, 1941 recorded in
Book 144 page 153
Fred A. Mountford
Fannie G. Mountford
to
R. A. Conrey

1945 Deed September 24, 1945 recorded in
Book 153 page 371
R. A. Condrey
Hilah R. Condrey
to
Karl Butterworth

1950 Deed August 30, 1950 recorded in
Book 176 page 127
Karl Butterworth
Musa H. Butterworth
to
J. Peyton Goodall
Marjorie Goodall

1954 Deed February 26, 1954 recorded in
Book 190 page 412
J. Peyton Goodall
Marjorie M. Goodall
to
H. E. Whelan

1967 Deed June 2, 1967 recorded in
Book 286 page 152
H. E. Whelan
Daisy C. Whelan
to
Horace L. Henshaw
Louise K. Henshaw

4. Original plans and construction: Unknown.

5. Alterations and additions: Unknown.

Prepared by Randall J. Biallas
University of Illinois, Urbana
August 1968

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is an early 19th century row house located in part of the original city. It was probably part of the cluster housing for early industry of the area. It is unusual in that there are five units attached together.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor. There is evidence of several "patch up" remodeling jobs.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Rectangular, overall dimensions approximately 25' x 100' (each unit 20' x 25'). There is evidence (from the end chimney positioning and condition) that the row used to be six units instead of five. One and a half stories, no basement.
2. Foundations: The building is raised about 2' off the ground on brick piers.
3. Wall construction: Heavy wood timber; original siding probably clapboard. Siding is now covered over with asphalt shingles.
4. Chimneys: There are three brick chimneys serving the five units. One is at the far right end (facing building). The other two are spaced at part walls between units. All are along the center axis of the long dimension. The end chimney is plastered over on the exposed end, and previous openings have been bricked up.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are five doors in front and five in rear (2 in each unit). None appear to be original.
 - b. Windows and shutters: All windows on the first floor are double-hung with 6 lights in each sash. Some windows have been boarded over. Windows in dormers are double-hung, with two lights to each sash.

6. Porches: There are three porches (covered) in front. Two porches cover four entries (two each) and there is one smaller porch to a single entry at far left (facing building). Roofs of the large porches are supported by three wood piers and the other by two piers. The roofs are attached at the wall.
 7. Structural system: The structural framing was not investigated because of wall and ceiling finish in attic.
 8. Roof shape and covering: Gable roof with lean-to extension at rear. Gable parallel to long dimensions (facing Plum St.). Tin covering with ribs 18" to 24" o.c., varying. The porch roofs are sloping slightly, away from the building.
 9. Dormers: There are ten dormers, five in front and five in rear (two for each unit). Covering is tin on side and roof of each. No significant trim or detailing.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plans, general: There is a similar floor plan for each unit. Description of one unit (right end, facing building).
 2. First floor: Two rooms, large front room with fireplace on right wall, smaller rear room with connecting doorway to front room--used as kitchen. Attic: One room, reached by stairs from front room, first floor.
 3. Stairways: Connects first floor and attic. Small landing two steps up--turns right and up to attic. Stairs are narrow, 2'3" wide. Stairway is along part wall to adjacent unit.
 4. Flooring: Wood plank flooring, both floors. Probably not original.
 5. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings of all rooms are painted plaster finish, poor condition.
 6. Doorways and doors: There is one connecting doorway between the first floor rooms. Door at stairway (first floor) is heavy and quite old, probably original.
 7. Notable hardware: None.
 8. Details and trim: None significant.
 9. Lighting: Modern.
 10. Heating: Oil stoves.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces south on Plum St. Clustered around are row houses of the same general character. However, this is the only structure with more than two units.
2. Outbuildings: None.
3. Landscaping: Sparse ground cover, no walks; no enclosures.

Prepared by John M. McRae
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
July 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the documentation made during the 1968 Petersburg Summer Project, undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with The Historic Petersburg Foundation, Inc., with financial assistance from The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. During the summer, records were made of twenty-two buildings in the city.

The project was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was John M. McRae of the University of Florida. The recording team was composed of Randall J. Biallas, historian (University of Illinois, Urbana), and student assistant architects Michael Hamilton (University of Arizona), Thomas J. Sanford (Washington State University), and Edwin S. Smith, Jr. (Rhode Island School of Design). Photographs were made by George Eisenman.